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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/858,478	05/17/2001	Yoshiaki Ichikawa	H6810.0020/P020	2989

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EXAMINER	
TSAI, CAROL S W	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2857	

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/858,478	ICHIKAWA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Carol S Tsai	2857

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *17 May 2001* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-39* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☒ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-4, 6, 12-16, 18-22, 24, and 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2000029900A to Ichikawa et al.

With respect to claims 1, 12, 13, Ichikawa et al. disclose a method for management of chemical materials comprising the steps of: providing a first data set (material name field 107a shown on Fig. 6) containing which substances comprise said materials; providing a second data set (specification matter name field 107b shown on Fig. 6) containing which of said substances are to be controlled; and providing a third data set (content field 107c shown on Fig. 6) containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process (see paragraphs 0015 and 0023-0027); analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data set; determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances; and maintaining said third data set according to a preset interval of time (see Figs. 1, 5, and 6 and paragraphs 0029-0039).

As to claims 19 and 36-39, Ichikawa et al. also disclose a system for management of chemical materials comprising: a server (see paragraph 0013) comprising: a first data set (material name field 107a shown on Fig. 6) containing which substances comprise said materials; a second data set (specification matter name field 107b shown on Fig. 6) containing which of said substances are to be controlled; a third data set content field 107c shown on Fig. 6)

containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process (see paragraphs 0015 and 0023-0027); said server being in communication with a processor, said processor being programmed to: analyze a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data sets; determine an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances; and maintain said third set data according to a preset interval of time (see Figs. 1, 5, and 6 and paragraphs 0013, 0014, 0023, and 0029-0039).

As to claims 2, 14, and 20, Ichikawa et al. also disclose point of discharge and transfer information (see paragraph 0004).

As to claims 3, 15, and 21, Ichikawa et al. also disclose discharged component information (see paragraphs 0013-0026).

As to claims 4, 16, and 22, Ichikawa et al. also disclose said process being a chemical reaction (see paragraphs 0029-0033).

As to claims 6, 18, and 24, Ichikawa et al. also disclose the data sets being provided by an outsourcing company (see paragraphs 0007, 0009, 0014, 0018, and 0021).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 5, 7-11, 17, 23, and 25-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichikawa et al. in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,726,884 to Sturgeon et al.

As noted above, with respect to claims 5, 17, and 23, Ichikawa et al. disclose the claimed invention, except for providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials.

Sturgeon et al. teach providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials (see col. 12, lines 19-34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ichikawa et al.'s method to include providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials, as taught by Sturgeon et al., in order that changes in, and compliance with, regulations and similar requirements can be tracked.

As to claim 7, Ichikawa et al. disclose a method for management of chemical materials comprising the steps of: providing a first data set (material name field 107a shown on Fig. 6) containing which substances comprise said materials; providing a second data set (specification matter name field 107b shown on Fig. 6) containing which of said substances are to be controlled; and providing a third data set (content field 107c shown on Fig. 6) containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process (see paragraphs 0015 and 0023-0027); analyzing a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data set; determining an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said controlled substances;

and maintaining said third data set according to a preset interval of time (see Figs. 1, 5, and 6 and paragraphs 0029-0039).

Ichikawa et al. do not disclose providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials.

Sturgeon et al. teach providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials (see col. 12, lines 19-34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ichikawa et al.'s method to include providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials, as taught by Sturgeon et al., in order that changes in, and compliance with, regulations and similar requirements can be tracked.

As to claims 25, and 30, Ichikawa et al. also disclose a system for management of chemical materials comprising: a server (see paragraph 0013) comprising: a first data set (material name field 107a shown on Fig. 6) containing which substances comprise said materials; a second data set (specification matter name field 107b shown on Fig. 6) containing which of said substances are to be controlled; a third data set content field 107c shown on Fig. 6) containing a ratio of discharge of said controlled substances in a process (see paragraphs 0015 and 0023-0027); said server being in communication with a processor, said processor being programmed to: analyze a preset amount of said materials in said process and determining a quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said first and second data sets; determine an emissions quantity of said controlled substances utilizing said ratio and said quantity of said

controlled substances; and maintain said third set data according to a preset interval of time (see Figs. 1, 5, and 6 and paragraphs 0013, 0014, 0023, and 0029-0039).

Ichikawa et al. do not disclose providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials.

Sturgeon et al. teach providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials (see col. 12, lines 19-34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ichikawa et al.'s method to include providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials, as taught by Sturgeon et al., in order that changes in, and compliance with, regulations and similar requirements can be tracked.

As to claims 8, 26, and 31, Ichikawa et al. also disclose point of discharge and transfer information (see paragraph 0004).

As to claims 9, 27, and 32, Ichikawa et al. also disclose discharged component information (see paragraphs 0013-0026).

As to claims 10, 28, and 33, Ichikawa et al. also disclose said process being a chemical reaction (see paragraphs 0029-0033).

As to claims 11, 29, and 35, Ichikawa et al. also disclose the data sets being provided by an outsourcing company (see paragraphs 0007, 0009, 0014, 0018, and 0021).

As to claim 34, Ichikawa et al. do not disclose providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials.

Sturgeon et al. teach providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials (see col. 12, lines 19-34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Ichikawa et al.'s method to include providing a fourth data set containing handling precautions, hazards and legal regulations for said materials, as taught by Sturgeon et al., in order that changes in, and compliance with, regulations and similar requirements can be tracked.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Farmer et al. disclose an integrated, data-centric hazard communication system.

Mastsui et al. disclose an environmental performance improvement support system and an environmental performance improvement support method that support to improve effects on the environment due to release of chemical substances.

Kakihana et al. disclose a method of support of environmentally concerned design of manufactured goods, making it such that a manufacturer can easily entrust environmental evaluation of manufactured goods to an external environmental evaluator, and the burden pertaining to environmental evaluation of manufactured goods of a manufacturer can be alleviated.

Larkin et al. disclose a case management system having a central data store comprising at least one data storage unit.

Fukatsu et al. disclose an environmental information system arranged to effectively provide environmental information.

Sekine et al. disclose a method and system for management of chemical materials comprising providing a first data set containing which substances comprise the materials, providing a second data set containing which of the substances are to be controlled, the substances being categorized by a group control number, and providing a third data set containing a ratio of discharge of the controlled substances in a process and analyzing a preset amount of the materials in the process and determining a quantity of the controlled substances utilizing the first and second data sets, and determining an emissions quantity of the controlled substances utilizing the ratio and the quantity of the controlled substances and wherein the group control number is the same for the substances in the same group.

Smalley et al. disclose a regulatory agency with the responsibility of administering regulations using a system with joint-usage capabilities, including data about regulated entities that are subject to the laws and rules administered by the agency and software for accessing the data.

Fujii et al. disclose a river management system for controllably operating devices of management facilities installed at pluralities of rivers and waterways to manage water volumes in a river network including the pluralities of rivers and waterways.

Sturgeon et al. disclose apparatus that provides an integrated approach for all management activities for hazardous substances used or generated at a facility, including form

generation and compliance with the reporting requirements.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carol S. Tsai whose telephone number is (703) 305-0851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax number for TC 2800 is (703) 308-7382. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2800 receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 2800 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office actions directly into the Group at (703) 308-7382. This practice may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 2800 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

Carol S. Tsai

03/27/03

MARC S. HOFF
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